

Environment & Outdoors



Think green! Bloomington and Monroe County are fortunate to have many parks and natural areas located within our city and county limits. There are many organizations that offer opportunities to get your hands dirty and make a difference. Address local environmental issues and improve the quality of life for everyone who lives here.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT.

401 N. Morton St., Ste. 250 47404
349-3739

www.bloomington.in.gov/parks

Volunteer Contact: Kim Ecenbarger **Minimum Age:** 15
Email: ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov **w/Parental Supervision:** 12

Provides comprehensive programs that encompass educational, cultural, recreational, intergenerational, health and leadership opportunities. Contact Kim Ecenbarger to receive a "Volunteer Opportunities" brochure or their "Volunteer Opportunities" bi-weekly email.

* Whether it's helping kids at an event or getting involved in environmental projects, teen volunteers are important. Students can build support for resumes or scholarship applications, and volunteering with groups or student organizations emphasizes the value of community. Service opportunities during Fall/Winter season include: Pumpkins in the Park, Garden Days, Skate and Scare, Trail Beautification, Trick or Treat Trail, Skate with Santa, Holiday Market, After School Adventure, Park Beautification, Fall Tree Planting.

HARMONY SCHOOL

909 E. 2nd St. 47408
334-8349

www.harmonyschool.org

Volunteer Contact: Barb Backler **Minimum Age:** All Ages
Email: bbackler@harmonyschool.org

An independent pre-K through 12th grade school providing quality education to youth ages 3 to 18 from a wide range of economic and educational backgrounds.

* There is a need for tutors for all ages, publishing support and gardening help.

HOOSIER HIKERS COUNCIL

PO Box 1327 Martinsville IN 46151
(765) 349-0204

www.hoosierhikerscouncil.org

Volunteer Contact: Suzanne Mittenthal **Minimum Age:** All Ages
Email: hikers@scican.net

HHC is made up of runners, walkers, car campers and backpackers. HHC volunteers have contributed extensively to trail design, building, maintenance and improvements.

* Community volunteers of all ages are needed to assist with trail maintenance. Student groups, church groups, Scouts are welcome. No experience needed!

IU HILLTOP GARDEN AND NATURE CENTER

2301 E. 10th St. 47405
855-2799

www.indiana.edu/~hilltop

Volunteer Contact: Marcia Pluta-Figueiredo **Minimum Age:** All Ages
Email: hilltop@indiana.edu

Dedicated to providing service, programs and education in gardening, horticulture and nature-based activities for enhancing the well being of individuals and society. Programs include youth gardening, parent/child gardening, adult education, demonstration gardens and therapeutic horticulture.

* Volunteers wash pots, clean greenhouses, and seed and transplant plants; others work outdoors to maintain the grounds. There is a job for everyone. Teens over 16 years of age can help with advertising and marketing of programs and workshops. Includes creating and distributing flyers, writing community service announcements and press releases, and locating other avenues for Hilltop to advertise their services to the community. Time commitment is approximately 3 to 5 hours a month.

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MONROE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3400 S. Walnut St./ Old SR 37 South 47401
349-2020

www.mcswmd.org

Volunteer Contact: Brenda Strauss **Minimum Age:** All Ages
Email: bstrauss@mcswmd.org

A multifaceted service organization that works to ensure that recyclables and trash are handled in an environmentally safe and socially and economically responsible manner.

* Looking for volunteers to assist people dropping off recyclables at the facility, and assist in processing the materials; training provided. Also needed are people to work in the office.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD

1010 S. Walnut St., Suite G 47401
355-6843

www.mhcfoodpantry.org

Volunteer Contact: Libby Yarnelle **Minimum Age:** 12
Email: mhc@mhcfoodpantry.org

A Bloomington food pantry that provides wholesome, healthful foods, as well as nutrition and gardening education, to over 880 individuals in need per week.

* Assistance is needed with food distribution, clean up, community garden maintenance and nutrition education. Pantry is open from 3-6pm, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Wednesday from 11am-2pm. Flexible scheduling is available.

PIANKESHAW TRAILS EDUCATIONAL PARK

RR 3 Box 642 Solsberry IN 47459
(812) 825-1234
www.ptpark.org

Volunteer Contact: Sheryl Hartman **Minimum Age:** 10
Email: hartman@bluemarble.net

Offers students opportunities to visit the past through hands-on experiences in a Woodland Indian Village, on frontier trails or in a Cheyenne Camp.

* Fun-filled activities await volunteers at this park in Solsberry. Activities include trail improvements, clearing brush, site improvements, mowing, Long House construction, collecting saplings and cattails, sewing cattails into mats for wigwams, and wigwam construction.

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST

PO Box 7801 47407
336-5382
www.sycamorelandtrust.org

Volunteer Contact: Wendy Read Wertz **Minimum Age:** All Ages
Email: sycamore@bloomington.in.us

A local volunteer conservation organization that has protected nearly three-thousand acres in seven counties, in Monroe County alone over two-thousand acres of forest, wetland, prairie and farmland.

* Want to get outside? Many opportunities are available to help maintain and restore the lands preserved by the Sycamore Land Trust, including tree plantings, trail building and maintenance, and invasive plant removal. Office help also needed on occasion.

T.C. STEELE STATE HISTORIC SITE

4220 T.C. Steele Rd. Nashville IN 47448
(812) 988-2785
www.tcsteele.org

Volunteer Contact: Andrea de Tarnowsky **Minimum Age:** All Ages
Email: tcsteele@bloomington.in.us

Formerly the home of artist T.C. Steele, this beautiful 211-acre facility in Brown County includes Steele's house and studio, five hiking trails, the Dewar Log Cabin and the 92-acre Selma Steele Nature Preserve.

* Needed are tour guides, workers on maintenance and construction projects, gardeners and volunteers in the office. Working and learning with the site's knowledgeable staff will serve you well on whatever path you choose for your future.

WILDCARE, INC.

5970 W. SR 48 47404
323-1313
www.wildcareinc.org

Volunteer Contact: education director **Minimum Age:** 16
Email: info@wildcareinc.org

Volunteer wildlife rehabilitation program dedicated to providing prompt, professional care to injured and orphaned wildlife in South Central Indiana and educating the public on wildlife and the preservation of habitat.

* The cage building team will assist the staff in designing and building appropriate housing for wildlife, as well as relocating existing cages. Volunteers need to be able to use a hammer or a staple gun and do some lifting. Hours and days are flexible; training will be provided.